

Church of England Records 1813 and Onward

The Church of England, or Anglican Church, was the predominant and state religion in England and Wales from 1536. They began keeping church records in 1538. Beginning in 1812, Church of England church records began being kept on printed form.

Objectives

You will be able to:

- 1- Know what Church of England records exist after 1813.
- 2- Know how to access the Church of England records after 1813.

Church of England Timeline

- 1812 – Church of England parish registers were kept on a printed form.
- 1837 – The requirement of marriages to be performed in the Church of England ended.
- 1837 – On July 1st, Civil Registration began which is the recording of birth, marriage, and death certificates.

What information will you find in the Church of England records?

After 1813:

Christening record:

- Christening date and place.
- Child's given name.
- Father's given name and occupation.
- Mother's given name and rarely her maiden surname.
- Family residence.
- Birth dates included are the exception and not the norm.

Marriage records: After 1837

- Typically, people married in their 20s and they usually married in the bride's parish church.
- Marriage date and place.
- The name of the bride and groom.
- The age of the bride and groom.
- Marital status of bride and groom.
- Occupation of the bride and groom.
- Residence of the bride and groom.
- The name and surname of father of the bride and the groom.
- The occupation of the father of the bride and groom.
- Whether married by banns or license.
- The name of the minister.
- The signatures of the bride and groom.
- The names of the witnesses to the marriage.

Marriages performed by license:

- If a marriage was performed by license, you may also find a marriage bond and allegation. This is true for marriages before and after 1813.
- To find the marriage bonds and allegations go to www.familysearch.org > Click Search > Click Catalog > In the Place search type the name of the English County, for example, Yorkshire then click Search > Click on Church Records and search for Marriage Bonds and Allegations. Or instead of a Place search you can do a Keyword search. For example, Yorkshire Marriage Bonds and Allegations.

Burial record:

- A burial usually took place in the deceased's parish a few days after the death.
- Burial place and year.
- Name of the deceased.
- Residence of the deceased.
- When buried.
- The age of the deceased.
- By whom the ceremony was performed.
- Other information may have been recorded depending on the minister and the parish.

How to access Church of England Records After 1813

Fortunately, many of the Church of England records have been digitized and indexed online. Depending on the County where your English ancestors lived, there may be many websites in which you can access Church of England records. Here are a few websites to search:

- <https://www.familysearch.org>
- <https://www.ancestry.com> – Subscription site
- <https://www.findmypast.co.uk> – Subscription site
- <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>
- <https://www.myheritage.com> – Subscription site

Steps to accessing England Church Records After 1813:

FamilySearch.org	Ancestry.com	Findmypast.com
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to Search, then click Records.2. On the map of the world, click England.3. Scroll through and see what has been digitized for your ancestor's county.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to Search, then click All Collections.2. Scroll down and click UK & Ireland.3. Click on England.4. Search for births, marriages, and/or burials.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Go to Search.2. Click All record sets.3. In the search box type the name of the County where you want to find the church records.

Another way to access parish registers on FamilySearch.org:

- Go to Search, then click Catalog.
- In the Places search, type the name of your ancestor's parish, and then the county, for example, Churchill, Worcestershire.
- After clicking Search, click Church Records.
- Find the years for your ancestor and then click the camera icon to view the actual image. If there is a key above the camera, you will need to view the image in a local family history center.

Tips for Searching England Church Records

- A church marriage record and a marriage certificate recorded by the government, will give you the exact same information. If you don't want to order the marriage certificate, you can find the marriage performed in the church to get the same information.
- When searching for your ancestor, you can also perform a parent search to find siblings.
 - In the surname search field enter in the last name of your ancestor but leave the first name field blank.
 - Enter in the name of the father and the mother in the parent field. Also try leaving the mother's name blank as some early church records may not have included the mother's name.
 - Search a plus or minus of about 10 years, or more, to find older and younger siblings.
 - Type the name of the parish in the place field. Also try just the county as siblings may have been christened in a neighboring parish.
- For marriages and burials, you can also search for anyone with the same surname who were married or buried in the same parish during the time that your ancestor married or died in the same parish to find additional relatives.
- If you can't find your ancestors on one family history website, try searching for them on another site. Some indexes may be better on one site than another.
- If you can't find your ancestor's name indexed on a website like FamilySearch.org, it doesn't mean the church record is not on that site. It could be that it just hasn't been indexed yet. To see if this is the case search the FamilySearch Catalog by going to the FamilySearch website, click on Search, then Catalog and do a place search using your ancestor's parish.

Additional Information

In addition to the parish registers, there are other records created by the Church of England such as parish chest records, court records, etc. To learn more about England Church records, including additional records that may be found go to [wiki.familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Church_Records) and in the search box type "England Church Records."